

UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Volume 7 • Number 3

May/June 2001



Commissioner Rukeyser (left) meets with new DMHDD Planning & Policy Council

DMHDD Planning and Policy Council Holds Inaugural Meeting

The newly appointed DMHDD Planning and Policy Council—whose mission is to advise the department about the service system, policy development, legislation, budget requests and system evaluation and monitoring—held its first meeting in June.

The council replaces the Board of Trustees under the changes brought about by the 2000 revision of Title 33 of the Tennessee Code Annotated. That area governs the delivery of services to Tennesseans with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, developmental disabilities and persons who need inpatient alcohol and/or drug services.

The council has a minimum of 17 members, not including *ex officio* members, appointed by the commissioner for three-year terms. The Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appoints one legislator as a member of the council.

The governor is an *ex officio* member and appoints the chairman and may also appoint representatives of state agencies as *ex officio* members.

Current or former service recipients and members of service recipients families comprise a majority of the council's membership and represent mental health, developmental disabilities, children, adults and elderly services. Service providers and others affected by the services are also represented.

Council Members:

- Mary Rolando, chairperson, Nashville
- Dr. Bill Allen, Talbott
- Robert Benning,* OakRidge
- Michael Cartwright,* Nashville
- Senator Bill Clabough, Maryville
- Mary Ann Eckles,* Murfreesboro
- Andrew Fox, Memphis
- Barbara Gray,** Huntingdon
- C. Turner Hopkins,* Memphis
- Pam Jackson,** Chattanooga
- Representative Mark Maddox, Dresden
- Joseph Marshall,* Knoxville

- Sheryl McCormick,* Knoxville
- Dr. Herbert Meltzer, Nashville
- Donald Redden,** Dickson
- Bernice Robinson,** Memphis
- Carol Westlake,** Nashville
- James Whaley,* Nashville
- Governor Don Sundquist, *ex-officio*
- Elisabeth Rukeyser, *ex-officio*

* Present or immediate past members of the Mental Health Planning Council

** Member of the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

President Urges Use of Community Supports

From the Associated Press

President George Bush recently ordered federal agencies to help states locate and use community services rather than institutions for people with mental disabilities. "It is compassionate, it is needed, and it is now the federal official policy of my administration," he said.

Bush continued, "We will treat Americans with disabilities as people to be respected, rather than problems to be confronted."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said, "In this era of a continuing

advancement of technology, there are possibilities to harness their talent in ways that were previously inconceivable."

The president's executive order follows a 1999 Supreme Court ruling to place individuals with mental disabilities in community settings rather than institutions wherever possible.

Bush said he wants his administration to make sure the decision is fully enforced and to "ensure that no one is unjustly institutionalized."

Update
*of the Tennessee Department of Mental
Health and Developmental Disabilities*
(ISSN-10882731)
Volume 7, Number 3

State of Tennessee
Don Sundquist, Governor



Department of Mental Health and
Developmental Disabilities
3rd Floor, Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37243
615-532-6500
www.state.tn.us/mental

Elisabeth Rukeyser, Commissioner
Ben Dishman, Deputy Commissioner
Melanie Hampton, Asst. Commissioner
Mental Health Services
Barbara Brent, Deputy Commissioner
Mental Retardation Services
Mack Rhea, Director, Division of
Administrative Services

Prepared and distributed by the
Office of Public Information Education
(615) 532-6610 - FAX (615) 741-4557
Martha Robinson, Director
Patricia Fortner, Editor
Tristen Pulley, Student Intern
Linny Parker, Circulation

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy of
nondiscrimination, the Department of Mental
Health and Developmental Disabilities does not
discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion,
color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or
military service in its policies, or in the admission
or access to, or treatment or employment in, its
programs, services or activities.

Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator
at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at
(615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at
(615) 532-6700 for inquiries, complaints or
further information. Persons with hearing
impairment should call (615) 532-6612.

Published bi-monthly by the Department of Mental
Health and Developmental Disabilities.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville, Tennessee
Postmaster: Send address changes to Department of
Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
Office of Public Information and Education
11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243



Tennessee Department of Mental Health and
Developmental Disabilities, Authorization
Number 339285, 10,000 copies, September
2000. This public document was promulgated
at a cost of \$.22 per copy.

Around the State

Minority Health Summit Scheduled in August

The 6th Annual Minority Health
Summit is set for August 22-24 at the
Legislative Plaza in Nashville. The theme of
the event is Healthy Communities:
Eliminating Health Disparities.

Hosted by the Office of Minority Health,
the Tennessee Black Health Care Commission
and the Tennessee Black Caucus of State
Legislators, the event offers a Youth Mini
Summit, workshops and exhibits, in addition
to a large group of state and national speakers.

For information, contact the Office of
Minority Health at (615) 741-9443.

Louetta Hix Honored

Louetta Hix, site coordinator of the
BRIDGES Evaluation Program which she
helped establish at Vanderbilt University
Medical Center, was honored in May.

Scheduled to receive an M.S.S.W. from
the University of Tennessee School of Social
Work in August, Hix was chosen by the
faculty to be honored for scholarship and
leadership. Her master's work was paid by
scholarships from the Eli Lilly Reintegration
Awards program.

Also Hix was awarded the Clifford Beers
Award from the Mental Health Association of
Middle Tennessee at the group's presentation
in June.

In addition to her continued work with
the BRIDGES Evaluation Program, Hix is
doing field study regarding housing and

supports for persons with mental illness in the
jails. She is pursuing a grant to assist in this
effort. She can be contacted at
louetta.hix@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 322-1853.

Graham Presents at Denmark Conference

Linda Graham, MSN, an RN in the
Division of Mental Health Services, presented
at an international nursing conference in
Denmark.

Graham's presentation centered on
information she found through research at
Memphis Mental Health Institute regarding
the effects that moving to a new facility could
have on the well-being of the patients.

Mental Health Courts Gaining Momentum

From the American Psychiatric Association

A review of model mental health courts
around the country shows they might be
effective in diverting offenders with mental
illness from jail, according to a report in the
April 2001 Psychiatric Services.

***The Davidson County Mental Health Court,
which has been in operation less than a year,
is the fifth of its kind in the United States.***

These courts will provide continuing
supervision of offenders with mental illness,
mental retardation or co-occurring mental
illness and substance abuse disorders who are
charged with a misdemeanor or nonviolent
offense.



*Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Conference—A Fair Housing Planning, Compliance and
Enforcement Session for HUD Entitlement Grantees—was held in April at Fisk University in Nashville.
From the mental health community are (front row from left) June Palmer, NAMI-TN: DMHDD's
Director of Housing Planning and Development Marie Williams; Brenda Cleaver, senior community
builder with HUD; Richard French, housing developer with Behavior Health Initiatives (BHI). Second
row: Arthur Hyde, DMHDD's director of Licensure; John Palmer, attorney; Cindy Tyler, DMHDD's
director of Legal Counsel; Tracey McCartney, project director of Tennessee Fair Housing Council and
George Haley, NAMI-TN. Back row: Dr. Jim Causey, executive director of BHI.*

Around the State

TAMHO Sets Annual Meeting for October

The Tennessee Association for Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) has scheduled its 2001 annual meeting for October 23-24 at Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin.

For agenda, registration information, exhibit information, visit their web site at www.tamho.org/ or call (615) 244-2220.

Freeman Addresses U.S. Senate Subcommittee

Dennis Freeman, Ph.D., CEO of Cherokee Health Centers in Talbott, testified before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee in March. The Public Health hearing was entitled "Strengthening the Safety Net: Increasing Access to Essential Health Care Services."

Freeman told the senators, "Expansion of the community health centers system, though necessary, will not in itself, be sufficient in order to provide the safety net of basic health services so desperately needed in many of our communities. Changes in the program will be necessary. We must enhance the capability of health centers to address the behavioral health needs of their patients."

I.C. HOPE Expands Activities

The Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee's I.C. HOPE has taken up scouting.

The Erasing the Stigma statewide education program has designed a patch program for the Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council to be used with troops across the state. The program involves projects and activities to educate the Girl Scouts about Mental Wellness.

Once they have completed the required steps, they are awarded the I.C. HOPE patch to add to their uniform.

In addition to the Girl Scout patch, the Erasing the Stigma program is working with Vanderbilt University Virtual School to develop virtual presentations and interactive web contests for children and schools in Tennessee. The web site was launched in May and the contest will be called the I.C.HOPEathon.

The MH Association would like to talk with any group interested in adopting the I.C.HOPE, Don't Duck Mental Health campaign as their local campaign. Contact the Mental Health Association for more information at (615) 777-DUCK.



Pictured at the Children's MH Conference (from left)—George Mensah, minister of nurture at the Temple Church in Nashville; Trainers Bobbi Anstead and John VanDenBerg, Ph.D; Sandy Heath, principal investigator for Tennessee's System of Care Grant; Health Commissioner Fredia Wadley, M.D.; and DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser.

Nashville Conference Plans Children's MH Services

Eighty professionals from child-serving agencies in Tennessee met in April for training on the System of Care for serious emotionally disturbed children. The four-day session's goal was promoting interagency collaboration.

DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser said the conference was the result of a federal grant—Nashville Connection: A system of care (SOC) for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED) and their families. The commissioner said participants collaborated on a system of care for children with SED and their families that

enables the children to be cared for in their homes and communities.

"In Tennessee, we are working toward implementing SOC practices in every community. This is one reason why the success of the demonstration in Nashville is of such importance," she said.

Trainers for the four-day session included John VanDenBerg and Bobbie Ansted. VanDenBerg is internationally recognized as an expert on System of Care and the wraparound process, the method used to implement services to the total child.

Scenes from Forensic Renewal Training



From left: Nancy Reed, forensic/juvenile specialist with DMHDD; Dr. Judith Becker from University of Arizona, guest speaker and Dr. Nancy Kirby with Mental Retardation Services at the Annual Forensic Renewal Training in Murfreesboro.

Pictured at the May training are (from left) Dr. Doug King, medical director at Western Mental Health Institute (WMHI); Lisa Roy, WMHI; Randy Starr, guest speaker from Elgin, IL; and Gwendolyn Hill from WMHI.





First Lady Martha Sundquist with Chasity Parram.



Mrs. Sundquist, Carol and Richard LeBudde and Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser.

Volunteers Honored at Annual DMHDD Luncheon

Some 30 top volunteers from across the state providing services to the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities gathered in Nashville at the historic Union Station Hotel on June 7th for special recognition.

The occasion was the department's 12th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon which pays tribute to Tennesseans who contribute time, goods and services to make life better for people who receive services in state operated mental health institutes or developmental centers.

First Lady Martha Sundquist gave the principal address. She cited her own volunteer efforts and expressed appreciation for the input the volunteers made in the lives of people served by the department's facilities.

From the 30 nominees, five were chosen for top honors. Mrs. Sundquist and DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser presented plaques for the Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer Group of the Year, Volunteer Spirit Award and the Commissioner's Award. Also honored were the facility volunteer service coordinators.

*Mrs. Sundquist,
Lillie Cavazos and
Commissioner
Rukeyser.*



*Woodlawn Funeral
Home's Brenda
Brown and Rodney
Wells with
Commissioner
Rukeyser.*



*Barbara Shelton with
Martha Sundquist and
Commissioner
Rukeyser.*

DMHDD Top Volunteers for 2001

Chasity Parram, a volunteer from Western Mental Health Institute (WMHI) won the “Volunteer of the Year Award” for her many activities including work in the Geropsychiatric Unit (for people age 65 and older). While at Bolivar Central High School, Parram spent the past four summers volunteering at Western.

Woodlawn Funeral Home received the “Volunteer Group of the Year Award” for its 27 years of providing burial services to Clover Bottom Developmental Centers residents who pass away with no family or funds. During those years no one was turned away and services were carried out with the same dignity as they were for others.

Barbara Shelton of Greene Valley Developmental Center was named “Volunteer of the Year.” Although a high school student, since 1999 she has logged more than 800 hours assisting staff providing individual attention and social stimulation to people who are in Greene Valley’s care.

Carol and Richard LeBudde, two loyal friends of Lakeshore, were honored with the “Volunteer Spirit Award.” The LeBudde’s volunteer for duty in Lakeshore’s library, assisting the librarian to check in periodicals and organize various materials. Richard often plays handyman on equipment that needs repair. They come to the library twice each week and interact with both kids and adults.

The “Commissioner’s Award” was presented to Western MHI’s Lillie Cavazos, who began volunteering shortly after retirement as the facility’s procurement officer. She has done much to enrich the lives of patients and lighten the load of staff.

Other nominees include

- Knox County Council of Garden Clubs Knoxville
- Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, Knoxville
- COMPEER, Knoxville
- Delta Sigma Theta, Memphis
- Robert Hayes, Chattanooga
- Janet Baggett, Nashville
- Silver Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Smyrna
- Robert Sanders, Chattanooga
- Workshop Companions of Trinity Lutheran Church, Chattanooga
- Ruchee Patel, Bolivar
- Antioch Baptist Church, Bolivar
- Diane Hall, Nashville
- David Hooper, Nashville
- YMCA Hula Dancers, Greeneville
- Jamie Trammell, Greeneville



Michael Cartwright, executive director of Foundations Associates, recently received the Consumer Advocate of the Year Award for 2001 at the NAMI Nashville Ambassador of Hope Awards program. The award was presented by DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser, last year’s winner of this award.

The TennCare and Children Policy Conference “A Conversation with Policymakers”—held in June—covered various areas dealing with children’s health from enrollment of non-English speaking families, coordinating mental and physical health, to coordinating health with the assistance of Tennessee’s schools. Pictured are opening speaker Joe McLaughlin, director of the Tennessee Children’s Health Initiative and Sandy Heath, principal investigator for Tennessee’s System of Care Grant.



Recovery Month 2001 Set for September

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment released the 2001 National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month observance materials in June.

The theme for this year’s September observance is “We Recover Together: Family, Friends and Communities.” The materials are designed to encourage participation and involvement in the observance by local, regional and national organizations and coalitions interested in supporting individuals in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.

This is the 12th annual Recovery Month effort that seeks to involve people in recovery, treatment programmers, elected officials, policy makers, education leaders, judges, health providers, the faith community and many other sectors in activities that celebrate those in

recovery and supports the gains made by those who provide addiction treatment.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said that “Recovery Month is an opportunity for us to reach out and encourage those in need of addiction treatment to seek help.”

Acting SAMHSA Administrator Joseph Autry III notes that “Our nation’s citizens should not be punished for their addiction. An addiction is not a crime. An addiction is a disease that needs to be treated like any other. Recovery Month celebrates the contributions and achievements of people in recovery.”

A Recovery Month kick off news event is planned for September 6 in Washington, D.C. The Recovery Month kits and other materials are available at www.samsha.gov or may also be obtained by calling 1 (800) 729-6686.

Over 1,000 Attend Regional Suicide Prevention Conferences

An estimated 1,000 people attended Suicide Prevention Workshops around the state this spring. The conferences were a product of the regional Suicide Prevention Action Groups (SPAG) and sponsored by the DMHDD and Janssen Pharmaceutica along with many other companies.

Region I

Region I's conferees heard from Jon Ellis, Ph.D., Department of Psychology at East Tennessee State University about "The Problem: Epidemiology, Assessment and Treatment." The conference was held at Meadowlake Center in Kingsport on May 11.

The program included panel discussions about Generations at Risk with community responses. Fred Davis, president and executive director of TEACH/Crisis Center, Clyde, N.C., spoke about "Parents against Teen Suicide. Breakout groups included Survivors Panel, Standardized Patients, and Suicide and the Law.

Region II

"Is Suicide Preventable" was the theme of the conference at the Knoxville Holiday Inn/Cedar Bluff Road on May 11. Hosted by the Region II SPAG and the Mental Health Association of Greater Knoxville, it was sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceutica, Forest Specialty Sales, Pfizer and the DMHDD.

Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser gave the opening address, followed by presentations by Stephanie Hall, M.D., chief public health officer of Knox County Health Department and Carter Miller, Ph.D. of Cherokee Health Systems.

Region III

DMHDD's Larry Thompson, Ph.D., welcomed the group to the session entitled



State Suicide Prevention Coordinator Janice Browne pictured in front of the quilt featuring those lost to suicide.



Regions IV and V speakers Reese Butler and Karen Marshall.

"Suicide: The Unnecessary Loss," followed by the keynote address by Terry Holmes, M.D., a physician in private practice in Chattanooga.

Three morning breakout sessions were age specific—children and youth, middle-aged adults and a geriatric panel.

A faith-based panel offered a diverse look. It featured Phil Summerlin, chaplain at the Erlanger Medical Center (moderator); Rev. Lamat Moore of Lookout Valley Baptist Church; Rabbi Philip Posner of the Mitzpah Congregation and Ven Tenzin Tharpa, Buddhist Monk, Bodhi Center of Chattanooga.

Another panel was Survivors, Attempters and Grief Issues featuring Janice Browne as moderator with Carla Goette, Tim Arnett and Cynthia Bragg.

Regions IV and V

Belmont University's Massey Business center was the site for the conference in Nashville entitled "Is Suicide Preventable?"

Over 250 turned out to hear such speakers as:

Reese Butler—founder of the National Hopeline Network and the Kristen Brooks Hope Center named after Reese's late wife, who committed suicide after a long struggle with bipolar disorder.

Karen Marshall—an award-winning journalist—works at the

Kristen Brooks Center.

Dr. Elizabeth Prichett—board certified in adult and child psychiatry.

Dr. Joyce Maar—a licensed professional counselor.

Rev. Edwin Sanders II—a leading professional in faith-based initiatives and HIV/AIDS and founder of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church.

Clark Flatt—president and CEO of the Jason Foundation, an organization begun after the tragic suicide of the founder's son.

Dr. Kevin Early—criminologist and associate professor of sociology at Oakland University in Rochester.

Regions VI and VII

Held at the Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis, the conference targeted Religion and Suicide with a theme of "Saving Lives."

Dr. James Clemons, president of Oasis, the Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services of Washington, D.C., addressed "What Does the Bible Say About Suicide?"

Madge and Ken Tullis moderated "Faith Groups Speak Out on Suicide" featuring Father Tom Condon of St. Peter's Catholic Church; Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Temple Israel; Rev. Thomas Murray of the Anointed Temple of Praise, Rev. Dr. Janice Mynchenburg of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Dr. Michael Smith of Second Baptist Church. A host of panel presentations followed.

Embracing Our Differences

A day to promote, celebrate and raise awareness of children's mental health issues



Embracing our Differences Written Expression Contest Winners with Melanie Hampton, assistant commissioner of DMHDD Division of Mental Health Services.



Children were instructed in how to build planters and took the finished product home.



The Mental Health Association's I.C. Hope on the job.

The day was bright and sunny as hundreds of Middle Tennessee children gathered at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere for the annual Children's Mental Health Week Celebration finale.

In addition to the animals, there were over 30 informational and educational booths dotting the pathway. There was birdhouse building, bubbles, chalk art, dream houses, easel painting, face painting, flower planting, tie tying, a wall of design and a military tank to amuses the children and parents. On the trail to the petting zoo a story teller gave stories for kids of all ages.

Bands played, children made presentations and awards presented for the "Embracing Our Differences" writing contest.

Children's Mental Health Week is designed to promote awareness and to provide information regarding children's mental health. For more information, call Tennessee Voices for Children at (615) 269-7751 or (800) 670-9882.

The day was sponsored by

- Middle TN Children's MH Week Coalition
- Advocare
- Centerstone Community MH Centers
- Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee
- Parents Encouraging Parents
- Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities
- Tennessee National Guard
- Tennessee Voices for Children

Happenings

- Dr. Barbara Singleton and Mark Spaargaren recently joined the staff of Highland Rim Medical Center. Singleton is an outpatient therapist for the Tullahoma Office. Spaargaren specializes in child therapy and provides outpatient and intake services, group therapy and group work with parents.
- Dr. Charles Sastry was recently named medical director of the Center for Behavioral Medicine at Tennessee Christian Medical Center. Sastry, a board-certified psychiatrist, is former medical director for the hospitals' addictions/chemical dependency unit and outpatient program.
- The International College of Prescribing Psychologists recently certified Dr. John Hopkins as a Diplomate fellow in Psychopharmacology. Hopkins is affiliated with the Jackson Clinic Professional Association.
- Ron Honberg, director of legal affairs for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Washington, spoke at the Memphis chapter's annual awards banquet which was held at Lindenwood Christian Church. Eleven police officers were honored for their crisis intervention.
- The Family Guidance Training Institute recently hosted a violence prevention conference in Dickson. Entitled "Operation Respect—Building peace at home, school and in the community" it was an effort to help curb violence. The event featured Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, and his anti-bullying curriculum.
- Dennis Jones and Brad Smith, employees at Professional Counseling Services (PCS), were recently honored for their dedication in helping residents of Dyersburg/Dyer County with their mental health need. PCS is a non-profit center providing mental health services for residents of rural West Tennessee.
- The Kiwanis Club of Brainerd raised over \$49,000 to support Kiwanis International's Iodine Deficiency Disorder Project. Iodized salt in children's diet is the most practical way to protect them from the deficiency which can cause mental retardation and other developmental problems. According to UNICEF's estimates more than 85 million newborns were protected this past year as a result of this project which covers 82 countries worldwide.



20 Graduate from Youth Leadership Forum

The 2nd Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)—a four day training initiative of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities—ended June 7th with 20 new graduates.

The forum—held at Vanderbilt University—is designed to provide 10-12th graders who have disabilities with information and help them become advocates for themselves and others in the communities.

The application review team created a class diverse in disability, gender, ethnicity and geographic region, and whose members exhibited, or had the potential to exhibit, leadership qualities in their communities.

The delegates participated in group discussions and heard from local and national speakers in the field of disabilities. They also toured the Capitol and meet with legislators, attended a mentor luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel, and completed written materials designed to augment their self-advocacy and leadership skills.

The curriculum included state and federal laws, assistive technology, community inclusion, employment, education, history of disability and independent living.

The 2001 YLF attendees included:

- Melissa Allen-Memphis
- Christina Barlow-Mt. Juliet
- Chrissy Billante-Brentwood
- Kourtney Blevins-Greeneville
- Nelson Caudill-Thornhill
- Caroline Ellington-Germantown
- Jessica Greer-Collierville
- Benjamin Harmon-Johnson City
- Bryan Hilbert-Friendsville
- Darnykka Hillsman-Waverly
- Laurie Hobson-Memphis
- Kristy Millican-Germantown
- Breka Moore-Humboldt
- Daphne O'Brien-Memphis
- Nathan Pugh-Germantown
- Allison Ragsdale-Lenoir City
- Marshelle Rolle-Ashland City
- Sarah Schide-Ooltewah
- Stephanie Shultz-Sweetwater
- Justin Stauffer-Watauga

For a delegate or volunteer staff application for the 2002 class or more information on the Youth Leadership Forum contact:

Ned Andrew Solomon, Director, YLF
Council on Developmental Disabilities
425 5th Avenue, North
Cordell Hull Building, 5th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-0675

DMRS Holds Conferences In Protection from Harm

The Division of Mental Retardation Services recently sponsored conferences targeted to training community provider agency executives on how to recognize and report abuses to persons with developmental disabilities.

The conferences, titled Protection from Harm, were held in June in the state's three major regions.

Areas addressed included implementation of policies, best practices, trend analysis, abuse prevention curriculum and abuse prevention for caregivers.

Participants included agency executive and top administrators, incident management staff and residential coordinators.

For additional training opportunities check the DMHDD's web site under www.state.tn.us/mental/2/training.htm.



Department of Mental Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Office of Public Information & Education
11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243